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VAN KEUREN, Mary J

The government asylum.

Horrible and extreme cruelty
to the army and navy patients.

Supplement only. [1876]



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SUPPLEMENTAL.

The Government Insane Asylum near Washington. The Management should be Speedily Changed.

Full Answer to Additional False Charges made by the Defense against Witnesses for the People.

THE CLAIM OF COUNSEL FOR DEFENSE CONSIDERED. ERRORS SHOWN AND ASSUMPTIONS EXPOSED.

SLANDERS AND LIBELS REFUTED AND FIRMLY SPIKED.,

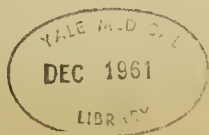
BY MARY J. VAN KEUREN.

“LET NO GUILTY MAN ESCAPE.”

After printing our circular of prior date, now herewith issued, to expose and repel the false and vile charges published and circulated by the defense, we concluded to await the distribution until the proofs were closed before the committee and the defense submitted, so that we might add such further suggestions as might be deemed proper on the part of the complainants. There was one other item which we ought to have considered, and it is the fact that counsel for the defense was quite actively engaged at the time in loudly *repeating* in public places the vile slanders got up by the defense against witnesses on the part of the people demanding the investigation.

THE PROOFS ARE NOW CLOSED,

and inasmuch as the defense has seen fit to continue the charges and the slanders against the witnesses who were brought before



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the committee by the Government authority, who testified to facts in favor of humanity and against barbarism, we consider we have the right and *justice demands* that we advise the public and lay before the reading portion thereof, in this manner and at this time, the *true facts*, to show the cruel treatment the inmates of the asylum have from time to time received under the present management, and to *repel* the *false* and *vile* slanders made and circulated against the witnesses who testified on the investigation in behalf of the soldier and sailor, the Government patients, in the asylum; and further, to show that the charges made by the defense and counsel were malicious, false, and black as the hearts prompting them.

THE RECORD TESTIMONY

will show that the patients in the asylum have for years, more or less, been cruelly and inhumanly treated by the attending physicians and attendants, who were wholly under the Superintendent, which, if he had performed his duty, could have prevented. The large volume of testimony cannot be disputed. The witnesses for the defense who had an opportunity to know, who ought to have known, who would have known the facts if they had done their duty, simply content themselves with denials, in most cases without knowing the facts, not being present to see for themselves, and when informed many times pass by without any correction being applied, thereby allowing the same kind of beating to be inflicted day after day, month after month, and year after year. In some cases they were compelled to admit the cruel treatment, and then they made efforts to hatch up some excuse. The proof shows unmistakably that *I was obliged* to take my son from the asylum to save him from further torture. The testimony, oral and documentary, which the record shows, is of such positive character, corroborated by defendant's witnesses and by his admissions, that there can be no question whatever of the facts charged as to my son, and further, the testimony clearly shows that the statement of McFarland and his slanders, repeated by the defense, were a manufacture got up by the help of the ex-Superintendent who had been found guilty of cruel treatment in the Jacksonville Asylum. A copy of the report of the committee has been filed in evidence before the investigation in this case.

THE DEFENSE CHARGES

that the witnesses against the accused are *none* other than half-crazed men and women, revengeful discharged employes—for cause, and disappointed tradesmen. We will state some of the testimony, as published, coming from resident witnesses and others, which will be found to be but a very small part of the proofs against the management of the asylum.

We commence with the case of George W. Bontz, who seems to be the first case brought to light, and was many years ago. The testimony shows the reason why the complaint was not made sooner, and so the testimony of other witnesses shows why the complaints made years and years ago were not acted upon.

TESTIMONY OF SARAH BONTZ.

We quote in full the deposition of Mrs. Sarah Bontz, an old lady, too ill to appear before the committee, as follows:

"On the 22d of May, 1876, appeared before me, T. J. Gardner, a justice of the peace in and for the city and District aforesaid, Mrs. Sarah Bontz, who, being duly sworn and qualified, deposes and says that she placed her son, George W. Bontz, aged thirty years, in the Government Insane Asylum, under the charge of Dr. C. H. Nichols, in the spring of 1858. About three or four weeks after she had placed him in the asylum she called to see her son, and was kept waiting two hours or more before she saw him. She was in the habit of visiting him every two or three weeks. On every visit she had to wait the same length of time. He remained at the institution about two years. He had become so reduced that he was unable to walk. She became satisfied that he was starving, and would die if he remained any longer; she, therefore, obtained an order from the Secretary of the Interior and took him home. He was then covered with vermin, and carried the marks of having been terribly beaten. She kept him at home about sixteen months or more, by which time he had become very fleshy and dangerous, so much so that she could not take care of him any longer, and was compelled to return him to the asylum, because she had no other place. Her son was violently insane—sometimes rational enough to inquire about different members of the family. While in this condition (rational) he asked her not to give any clothing or anything else that was in-

tended for him to his attendant, Price, because he would not get them if she did. Price would put on her son's clothing and wear them as if they were his own. Deponent saw some articles of her son's clothing on Price. All the clothing and bedding needed were furnished by her and his name marked thereon. One day deponent went to the asylum and obtained admission to the ward by stealth in which her son was placed, and asked the attendant, who seemed to be new, for George Boutz. Her son was lying upon the floor, with two old blankets under him, which were wet, directly under an open window. He was shivering with cold. As soon as he saw her he cried: 'Oh, mother!' The attendant on learning that he was her son became alarmed, fearing, she presumed, that he would lose his place for allowing her to come into the ward. A rough-looking character occupied her son's bed, and was covered up with his bed-clothing, which she had given her son. Her son pleaded to be taken away from this horrible place—'this iron coffin.' Alfred D. Nichols became cognizant of the facts and that she had found her son in such condition. She and her family were never permitted to visit the room where he was except at the last, when he was placed in an upper room to die. Dr. Earle, who was in the asylum at that time, saw the condition her son was in, and sent for her to come to the hospital as soon as possible, as he was dying. She went over and found him nearly gone, and asked permission of Dr. Nichols for herself and daughters to remain with her dying son all night. He refused. Dr. Earle interceded, and after spending some hours in the effort succeeded in obtaining permission for her to remain, but refused the sisters, who were with her at the time. One did remain in the room, but Dr. Nichols ordered her out, and she was compelled to go. Before her son died she said: 'George, did you wish to see me?' He answered: 'Yes. I am about to die. When I leave this body what do you intend to do with it?' He asked not to be left at the asylum to be buried, but 'bury me beside my father's grave.' He died the next morning, April 3, 1863, and she asked for a loan of the old mattress upon which he was lying to carry his body home, promising to return it promptly, but was refused. Dr. Nichols claimed that the feather-bed and mattress she had given her son could not be found for a long time; finally it was found and used. Her son's hair was cut short, his head and body were covered with vermin—scraped at least as many as would fill a large spoon from his head and ears. The skin of the

ears behind them was eaten off by vermin; the shoulders, under arms and around his neck, were completely honeycombed by vermin. The body was bruised and discolored by the lashes which had been given, and marks of former lashes and bruises that had been healed were visible. His entire body was also covered with vermin. She regrets that Dr. Magruder is not living to corroborate her. She made a complaint to the Secretary of the Interior in person. He requested her to present it in writing and he would investigate it. She was told Dr. Nichols had so much influence in the Department that no attention would be paid to any complaint, and she abandoned it. Has been a resident of the city thirty years, with a short absence. Her residence is No. 1530 Fifteenth street northwest. Her age is eighty years. She is now sick in bed, entirely unable to walk or move, and she desires to place her statement on record before she dies.

“SARAH BONTZ.

“Sworn to and subscribed before me.

“T. J. GARDNER, J. P.”

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE R. ADAMS.

The next witness was George R. Adams, who no man will dispute, not even the counsel for the defense, who testified that he resided at 1530 Fifteenth street; in 1858 he was chief messenger to the Commissioner of Patents; left there in 1861; George Bontz was his brother-in-law; he became insane in Florida in consequence of a fever common to that country; he had lucid moments at times; he was sent to the insane asylum at his (witness') instance, the certificate being signed by Drs. W. B. Magruder and Stone, both of whom are now dead; he frequently visited his brother-in-law at the Asylum—about once in three weeks; was always taken to the reception-room when he called; he always complained of being hungry, and asked for something to eat; one time his sister and others saw him in his own room; he was then in a very filthy condition; a couple of years afterwards he was brought home, having failed very much in health and having become very emaciated; when he was brought home he was covered with head and body vermin; during the whole time he visited the asylum he never saw Dr. Nichols but once; about eighteen months afterward he became so bad that they were compelled to return him to the asylum; witness saw him about a

month before his death, and he looked very badly for the want of nourishment; sent him back to the asylum as a matter of necessity, not of choice; the vermin had eaten part of his ears off, under and behind them; while home he gained strength very rapidly; witness did not make any complaint against Dr. Nichols at the time, as he was afraid that Dr. Nichols' influence was so strong that he (witness) would be discharged from the Patent Office; the only complaint that he had to make against Dr. Nichols was that he was careless and negligent in regard to patients at the Insane Asylum.

The cross-examination of the witness by Mr. Voorhees developed nothing new.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. SARAH ADAMS.

Mrs. Sarah Adams gave additional testimony in regard to George Bontz, sustaining Mrs. Sarah Bontz, her mother.

Elizabeth Bontz testified that she was with her mother and sister, Mrs. Adams, when they visited the Asylum; always had to wait a long time before he was brought down. Saw the vermin on him. Did not see him after he was stripped. Saw vermin on him when he was in the Asylum. His hair was stiff with vermin; called the attention of several to it at the time. When his body was brought home from the Asylum it was a terrible sight. Saw him at the Asylum when he was dying. Did not examine him at that time. Her brother and others saw vermin on the body when it was brought home. His mother remained at his bedside until he died, though the authorities of the Asylum would not allow witness or Mrs. Adams to remain with her. His mother remained there all night by herself. He died early in the morning. Mrs. Bontz, his mother, asked Dr. Earle and others to ask Dr. Nichols to allow them to remain, but permission was refused.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gludman corroborated the above. She testified that she was a sister of George Bontz, who died at the Asylum. Was present with others when vermin was seen on him. They were working about his coat collar in a crawling mass. Mrs. Bontz, his mother, asked the attendant to use a preparation which she made to kill the vermin. She also sent a fine-tooth comb there which the attendant said he would use. Helped to dress the body when it was prepared for burial. The back was covered with large welts and bruises. The vermin had cut a large ring around the

neck. This was two years after they first saw the vermin on him. Do not think the attendant used the preparation that she sent there. Was forced to return him to the Asylum, because they were unable to attend to him. He had grown strong and dangerous while he was at home. Was with his mother when word was sent up to his room that they would not be allowed to remain with him until he died. Had to leave, and left their mother there alone. Requested several times to be allowed to remain there. He had become so emaciated that she did not know him. He prayed to his mother not to leave him, saying that he wanted to be buried alongside of his father. Saw Dr. Earle there and talked with him. He said he would ask Dr. Nichols if they could be allowed to remain. Dr. Earle told them that Dr. Nichols would not allow it, saying it was against orders. Her brother said when dying that Dr. Earle was kind and good to him. Understood that Dr. Earle was a visitor there, and was assisting Dr. Nichols; that he visited all the insane asylums. Dr. Earle said he would let them know if he got worse, and he did so. They intended when they visited the Asylum the last time to bring him home and let him die at home. He told them several times not to give any food for him to the attendant, Preece, as none of it would be given him, (Bontz.)

Jacob E. Bontz, a brother of George Bontz referred to, testified that he took him to the Insane Asylum a strong man, and when they took him away he was very weak, and had fallen away greatly in flesh. He grew strong again before they sent him back. Did not examine him, but was told by his mother that there was vermin on him. Did not visit him at the Asylum, as witness was in the army during the time. Never heard his mother say he was badly treated, but heard her say there was vermin on him.

John Bontz, another brother, gave corroborative testimony, adding that he brought his brother George from Florida to this city, where he was placed in the Asylum. Undertook to take care of him himself, but could not, and was forced to send him to the Asylum. His mother sent clothing and shoes there regularly, but his brother got none of them; they were worn by the attendants. Always tried to keep on the right side of Preece, the head attendant; it was policy to do so, and would always fare better this way than by complaining. Saw a large scar on his brother's face; the attendant said it was caused by his pushing his head through a

pane of glass in the window. Tried for a long time to see his brother in his own room, but failed to do so.

When the testimony of the family of Mrs. Bontz and others was given counsel for the defense produced Dr. Earle, from an Asylum in Massachusetts, who, with evident intent, testified as follows, taken from a morning paper:

Dr. Pliny Earle, of the State Insane Asylum at Northampton, Mass., testified that he was some years ago an assistant physician at the U. S. Insane Asylum. Remembers the name of Bontz, but has no recollection of his case whatever, but do not think that such a case could occur while under his charge. Did not make a promise to any one that he would inform them in case Bontz was dying. The Government Asylum will compare very favorably with any in the United States or Europe. Witness has visited eighty asylums. Has not been at the Government Atylum for ten years but once; visited it in February last, just before the present investigation commenced. Have a shadow of a recollection that the mother of the patient Bontz visited the Asylum to see him, but has no distinct recollection in regard to the matter. Thinks that he saw her several times, but do not think that he ever wrote a letter to her about the treatment of her son. Has a recollection about a patient being taken away from the Asylum. Do not remember who it was or why he was taken away. Can not testify in regard to the frequency of Dr. Nichols' visits through the Asylum, but do not think he went through the Asylum more than once a week. In speaking of the treatment of patients by attendants, the witness said: "We never can get a hospital where there will be universal kindness as long as human nature lasts." During the war there were on an average two patients a day admitted to the Asylum. They were discharged as rapidly as they were admitted, being sent to their homes. Do not recollect what was done with the patients. Only remember getting them ready for the cars.

The Doctor stated further that it was important to *discipline* the patients; that he originated the idea of having all the patients standing in line when being inspected. (For discipline of *insane persons*, see Earle on Science.) The attending physicians and attendants acting as captains and corporals to keep them in line. This inspection in line was to see if the patients were in good condition and properly cared for.

What an idea! Form a line to inspect, to find vermin, and

discover condition of patients. Could the inspectors discover vermin unless the patients presented *arms* on the front march, and then on command about face for rear inspection.

The defense then produced Joseph Price, and after fixing him at the Asylum the previous evening, he testified as follows:

"Joseph Price, former attendant at the Asylum, testified that the patient, Bontz, had enough to eat. The witness positively denied that he ever took the patient's clothing or shoes and wearing them, saying: 'I would just as soon wear a dead man's shroud.' Witness has no recollection of Bontz being taken away or anything in regard to his death. Remembers his mother calling upon him several times at the Asylum. Was at the Asylum last night between six and seven o'clock, and had a talk with the doctors there. Slept last night on the Navy Yard. Never did an unkind act towards Bontz or any other patient. Bontz was violent between meals, but calm at the table.

"Judge Boone: Now, do you remember Bontz at all? Answer. I think I do.

"Q. Did he have black hair, or was he a large or small man? A. He was a middle-sized man. Don't remember the color of his hair."

On cross-examination witness said he had a talk last night with Dr. Nichols, also with his lawyer. They did not want witness to remember; but he did not really remember.

It seemed to have become necessary for the defense to show that this man Bontz was a "*raw-boned man*," to account for his complaint, *the want of food*—to show that he was a sort of *carnivorous* man. Therefore they produced Arnold, a clerk, who testified as follows:

"Samuel E. Arnold, clerk of the Board of Metropolitan Police, a former attendant at the Asylum, testified that he remembered the patient Bontz; he was at the Asylum during the time he was there; he was properly treated and received plenty to eat; he was a square built, tall, raw-boned man."

Mr. Adams further testified as to Price wearing George Bontz' clothes, as follows:

"George R. Adams testified that he knew Price, who was the head attendant when George Bontz was an inmate of the Asylum. He often saw Price with clothing on him that belonged to Bontz, and particularly a talma or overcoat. Recognized the coat, because he had bought it and sent it to Bontz. Supposed at the

time that Bontz had loaned it to Price, otherwise would have spoken about it to him. There were vermin on Bontz from his head to his heels. Mr. Arnold is all wrong in describing the patient Bontz, who was a round built man, and short."

And so did Mrs. Gladmon testify as follows:

"Mrs. Gladmon made an additional statement that George Bontz told her that Price, the attendant, wore the shoes and slippers that had been sent to him. Saw the slippers on Price, and asked him why he wore them, and he said he was wearing them to break them in."

Joseph Price further testified that "*George Bontz was violent between meals, but calm at the table.*"

It seems that Bontz could not have been very violent after all, except when *starved*, as he seems to have been very quiet at the table when eating. This item of testimony of Price speaks loud. He evidently did not understand the effect of it.

It will be remembered that this case of Bontz was some years ago. In the spring of 1858 Mrs. Bontz states was the time he was placed in the Asylum.

This Bontz case seems to be one of the earliest shown of extreme cruelty, and every stone is turned by the defense to avoid the testimony, so overwhelming and so true.

Earle, as we have shown, simply don't remember, for the best of reasons, we say, that he did not want to remember. He thinks he might have remembered if such a case of cruelty existed. *He does*, however, remember the name. He remembers of suggesting and organizing the standing parade for all such who were not so crippled as not to be able to stand. Earle does not remember of notifying the family of the approaching death of George; that was too humane for him to remember. He did notify the mother and family, and they came, but only the old lady was permitted to stay and see her son die. Large rooms, large building, and yet the sisters could not stay and close their brother's eyes, because *against the rules*. On special application to Dr. Nichols the physician said would take place before morning; but the sisters were refused leave, and were obliged to go home, late in the evening. These are facts not disputed, besides being testified to by several.

This case alone stamps the management with imbecility, cruelty, and with wanton neglect of duty, as well as inhumanity. There is no escape from this. There are other cases, *several of them*,

which cannot be denied with truth. We might quote the testimony of Dr. Thompson, B. F. Dexter, and in the case of General Loomis, and several others, to show great cruelty, inhumanity, and the lowest order of incompetency in the attendants, inexcusable ignorance and want of skill. Drs. Morrell and Chase, neither one of whom are competent, were recalled on the 27th ultimo to again testify to Dexter's case. Chase said he never saw a more insane man than Dexter in his life. Chase said that "Dexter imagined himself a *second Christ*. He always had a *Bible* in his hand, and said he intended to convert the whole of *New York city*, and that he never complained of bad treatment."

Upon this testimony the defense expects to destroy Dexter's testimony sent to the committee, in shape of a deposition, from New York city, where Dexter is employed in important public business which he could not leave. Whether Dexter claimed to be a second Christ or not is not shown because Chase said so; but suppose he did so claim, and suppose he did have a Bible in his hand, and suppose he did want to convert all New York, and Brooklyn besides, that does not prove that Mr. Dexter, when he testified, was not fully competent; and besides, at the time he was trusted to transact very important business, and was all right when he testified. This kind of testimony shows clearly that the defense is driven to desperate means and to ask for desperate construction to be placed upon reliable testimony. It seems that the defense expect the public to believe that all the testimony against the management will be considered as coming from deluded persons—that the evidence is an outgrowth of unconscious prejudice. The idea of doctors, who claim to have more knowledge about insanity than all others, classifying all cases of insanity the same, and treat them the same, is ridiculous in the extreme. The persons who are raving maniacs are placed in the same wards with the demented patients and a patient who mildly and meekly declared that he was a second Christ, having a Bible constantly in his hand, and claiming his mission to be to convert New York city.

The testimony of Benjamin F. Dexter shows very cruel treatment indeed, such as ought to condemn the Superintendent and all his assistants. The testimony shows great want of capacity in the assistant physicians. Such treatment should not have been given to a dog, and would not by a humane man.

THE CASE OF AMBROSE.

This case has excited considerable attention, we therefore quote some of the testimony as published.

"B. G. Blakesley testified that he resides in Charlotte, Ohio; is engaged in the lumber business. Was formerly a clerk in the Pension Office, and accompanied Mrs. Ambrose when she visited the Insane Asylum to see her son. Went with her upon the invitation of Dr. Daly and Mrs. Ambrose. Waited fifteen minutes to see Dr. Nichols. Mrs. Ambrose spoke to him. She said to the Doctor: 'You did very wrong in putting my son in a strong room.' The conversation was pretty warm, and finally Dr. Nichols said he did not want to talk longer on the subject. Mrs. Ambrose asked to see her son, and started towards the room in which he was kept. Dr. Nichols refused to allow witness to accompany her to see the boy. After waiting a little while the boy was brought down to the reception room. He was ragged, dirty, and very much emaciated. Think he wore blue soldiers' clothes. Did not examine him very closely. Mrs. Ambrose complained very bitterly of the treatment of her son, asking why was not the clothing that she sent her son furnished him. Cannot recall the details of the visit. Did not examine his body at any time.

"Mrs. Ambrose charged Dr. Nichols with allowing vermin to get on her son. Dr. Daly and Mrs. Ambrose visited the room in which young Ambrose was kept. The physician in charge refused to allow witness to accompany them. They said it was against the rules for persons not relatives of patients to visit the rooms in which patients were kept."

In cross-examination witness said he "resigned from the Pension Office in September, 1865. Dr. Daly is the uncle of young Ambrose. Knew that he had been at the asylum some considerable time. Young Ambrose was taken away soon after witness visited the asylum. The assault on Dr. Nichols, by striking him over the head with the vermin-covered shirt, by Mrs. Ambrose, did not take place on the occasion of the visit of witness. It may have occurred the visit afterwards. Witness only visited the asylum once. Do not think that the occurrences referred to by Mrs. Ambrose took place when witness accompanied her."

J. W. Wallace, formerly an attendant at the asylum, testified that he saw Hetterman, the head attendant of White Ash ward,

strike the patients with a broomstick, also with his fist; was employed there four weeks; saw vermin on the patients' heads. Witness on cross-examination denied that he was discharged for drunkenness. He said he would have told the Doctor of outrages upon the patients if he saw an attendant cutting a patient's throat.

In answer to a question of Mr. Tuft's witness said the meat furnished the patients was tainted as often as two or three times a week.

After Hetterman testified then came Morrell again, to help the defense and discredit Wallace, and he testified as follows :

"Dr. Morrell was recalled, and gave testimony in regard to Wallace:—He said Wallace was discharged from the asylum for being absent without leave; thought that Hetterman was a kind attendant; has watched him pretty closely of late; thought it was better to keep some patients tied down than to look them up in a strong room; do not apply restraints to more than one case in a hundred."

To defeat witness Hetterman, Morrell said he was discharged, but thought him a kind attendant; denied no striking, but he had *watched* him of *late*. Why did he watch him, if he had not been striking patients, as Wallace said?

Morrell said that he thought it better to *tie* patients than look them up in a strong room. He does not say that either was necessary in that case. Wallace seems to have testified truly for any thing Morrell says, and shows striking of patients, several no doubt.

THE CASE OF THOMAS W. WHITE.

Special mention seems to be necessary in this case. Mr. White fought through the war with Mexico nobly, and at an early day he enlisted into the Union army and helped to put down the rebellion, and rendered valuable services to his country.

We quote a part of Mrs. Taylor's testimony, a sister of White :

By the Chairman :

Q. Where do you reside?

A. Jersey Heights, New Jersey.

Q. State about the management of the Asylum, if you know anything.

A. My brother, Thomas W. White, was injured in the Mexican war. He was in his 18th year. He received an injury on the

head, and from that time his mind has been impaired. He went to the Soldiers' Home, Dayton, Ohio, after his mother's death. During her lifetime she took care of him.

Q. When did he go the Soldiers' Home?

A. After the close of the war. I never supposed him in a condition fit to be an inmate of an insane asylum, but it seems that his malady increased, and I was written to by Dr. Powell, surgeon at the Dayton Home, that my brother had been sent to the National Insane Asylum at Washington. As soon as I received the news I went on to Washington. I called to see my brother, and I stated his case to Dr. Chase. I said I did not think he was a fit subject for an insane asylum, and I felt very indignant that he should have been sent there. He said he came with twenty others, and the report came with him he had to be watched. I desired to see my brother. He was brought to me, and I could see that his mind was in no worse condition; although, through Dr. Chase's advice, I consented to have him remain there for the time being. I asked for Dr. Nichols, but they said I could not see him on that day. I then made an appointment to meet Dr. Nichols on the following day at 10 o'clock. I called, but again I couldn't see Dr. Nichols.

Q. Did you make an appointment with Dr. Chase to see Dr. Nichols?

A. Yes; but I did not see Dr. Nichols on that day. I said to Dr. Chase, "I wish to see my brother's room." He did not wish to show it; he said that he would rather not at that time. "No," I said, "I wish to see it now; I would be better satisfied to see his room." I went into his room through a very crowded ward, where I suppose twenty soldiers were placed—so crowded that we had to crowd through to get into the strong room where my brother was confined. I was very indignant that he should be placed there without any chair, without any comfort whatever, and really a prisoner. The bed was covered over with an old army blanket that was just in holes, and what induced me to go up to the bed I don't know, but I thought I would, as it struck me that the bed was in a very bad condition. I turned down the blanket; there was nothing there but a shuck mattress, with a hole as large as my hand just about where my brother's shoulders would come, and with all the shucks coming out; not a pillow or a sheet, and that old army blanket full of holes. If it was clean you could not tell whether the blanket was clean or dirty,

it was so discolored. I turned around to Dr. Chase and said, "Dr. Chase, how dare you place my brother in such a bed as that? I would not put a dog in a bed like it. If you had taken a gun and shot my brother down I could have forgiven it, but this I never will. Just as quickly as you can send Dr. Nichols to me." I called again. Dr. Nichols still was not forthcoming. I said to the young lady in attendance, "I want to see Dr. Nichols." Dr. Nichols could not be seen; they said he was not in. I said "I must see him." She said, "He is not in the grounds." I said, "You will hunt for him, then, or I'll go myself." She said, "It is against the rules for you to go." I said, "I don't care what the rules are; I am going to see Dr. Nichols." She looked through the hallway and said, "There is Dr. Nichols sitting under a tree." She called Dr. Nichols and he came in. He said, "Who is it?" I said, "It is Mrs. Taylor; I presume you have heard of me," and he said, "Oh, yes; walk into the parlor, Mrs. Taylor," very gentlemanly, and I stated the case of my brother. He said, "Now, Mrs. Taylor, I have been superintendent for thirty years." I think he said thirty years. "I never had been found fault with before; just leave your brother in charge of me, and I will see that everything is managed properly." Said he, "*If President Grant was here I shouldn't treat him any better than your brother.*" I went away satisfied that the Doctor would do as he said, but instead of going home I thought I would return and see my brother again. I came back and I found my brother in as pleasant a ward as you would wish any member of your family in—comfortable, and I left him happy. I returned home satisfied that he was cared for comfortably, and then returned in the fall again, and I found that my brother's condition was so much improved that I thought of taking him out, and was trying to get an increase of pension, so as to support him outside of the institution. At my request he had been given the privilege of the grounds, and before my return to take him out, as I had promised, he escaped, and walked some twenty miles from Washington to Odenton, Maryland. This was done in a drenching rain. He was subject to periodical attacks of aberration. At times he was gentle and genial as possible. After he was returned to the Asylum he was an occupant of a ward containing fifty-four patients, and not at all what I considered comfortable; but I could not help myself, as his pension was insufficient to pay his board.

What decided me in taking my brother from the Asylum was this: I had walked out there on a very hot day, and I cut across the grounds, and just at the first entrance there is a wing that presents itself to the gate, then there is a projection of the main building. I was attracted when I got there by shrieks and screams, and a lashing such as I had never heard before given to a human being, and with each lash there, the cry, "Oh, Doctor! Oh, Doctor!" Such screams I never heard. I am not the only one that heard this." There was a window just opposite me, and there were two persons standing there and telling me to keep off there, that I had no right there; but my eyes were strained to the third window where the curtain was down. The sound proceeded from that. I said to the young lady with me, "Annie, what is that?" She said, "They are whipping him most awful." And "Oh, Doctor," came with every scream. When I went in my first and sole thought was to go right to Dr. Morrell, but the whole wing was in a perfect state of excitement; they were walking backward and forward and straining their faces through the bars as far as they could up to this window. I said I will go right in to Dr. Morrell and see what it is. I didn't know how much I was unnerved then, but when I got in I was in this condition, (illustrating.) The young lady said she would send Dr. Morrell to me directly. When he came I asked him if he permitted patients to be whipped, and he said, "Certainly not." "Well," said I, "some of the keepers are whipping one of the patients most unmercifully. It is not one, or two, or three lashes, but it must have been a dozen. The voice was a female voice, that you could tell very easily." He said I must be mistaken, but that sometimes the patients whipped themselves, and that I wasn't accustomed to it. He tried to convince me that I was mistaken. I had said I should say nothing about it, but I went to my cousin's, and I got to thinking about it and I couldn't rest night or day. I asked my cousin if she knew of a committee. Dr. Toner was spoken of. I said, "I shall go to Dr. Toner and state the case, and have this matter seen into." Dr. Toner said I had done very right to come to him and make this statement. I said it seemed almost a violation of my word, but still it was a duty I owed to the inmates of that institution. After Dr. Toner had got all that he could out of me, he says "Well, I shall not upbraid you, but I think you have done very wrong in violating your word." He insulted me. I turned and left. I understood exactly how the case was. Dr.

Morrell said to me when I complained of the whipping, "Dr. Hamlin has charge of that ward, I will bring him to you." I think he said it was a colored ward, and that it was governed by ladies. You wouldn't suppose they would use any harsh measures. I said I didn't know whether I would trust them or not. It was evidently a most unmerciful lashing that poor creature got. So Dr. Hamlin came in and said that was the colored ward, and since the civil rights bill the sight of a white person would set them frantic, giving that as a reason for the screams; but the flippant manner in which Dr. Hamlin spoke to me and treated the case, and my remembering the screams of that poor unfortunate creature—"Oh, Doctor! Oh, Doctor!"—has impressed me most forcibly since that Dr. Hamlin was the man that laid those lashes on, and I could not disabuse my mind of it. I read the testimony of some one here about the food, and I think he has not exaggerated in that. I called to see Mrs. Tobin at the institution, a kind-hearted woman, and I said, "What kind of fare have you for your patients, Mrs. Tobin?" She took me into the dining-room; in each place was a chunk of bread that was so dry that it was broken; when bread is very dry it cracks open, and that was the condition of that bread. It was the only time I saw it. That whipping decided me to take my brother away from there.

Continuing, Mrs. Taylor said: "It was a female voice; Drs. Morrell and Hamlin confirmed that. I heard the two persons say who ordered me off, "Why don't you put her in the strong room?" I paid no attention to them; my eyes were strained there listening to the sounds. These persons said: "Put her in the strong room!" "Why don't you put her in the strong room?" and all of this wing was in a state of perfect excitement.

In answer to the question, if her brother complained of ill treatment, Mrs. Taylor said: "He told me Dr. Morrell knocked him down because he would not give his spectacles up. He was in that crowded ward of fifty-four patients. I provided him with ample changes of underclothing. When he went there he had a good valise and ample changes of good shirts and underwear; he came away with hardly a change. He was not violent at all; he was at my house a year and a half and he never did anything that a gentleman might not do. He is now at Mt. Hope Retreat, and I am in constant communication with the sisters, and they don't complain of him. He has his coffee and milk every day, and in his excitable moods the sisters make him a milk punch,

and so far as his clothing goes he is kept as a gentleman should be kept ; I couldn't be better satisfied.

TESTIMONY OF DR. CHASE.

This witness, again called by the defense to dispose of Mrs. Taylor's testimony, and to set up *avoidance* on account of *Indian blood* in the patient White, he having black, straight hair and swarthy complexion and high cheek bones.

The testimony of this witness is so extraordinary and so *cheeky* that we quote it as printed :

"Dr. Chase testified to having received the patient White, with twenty others brought at the same time from the Soldiers' Home, at Dayton, Ohio ; that White was a tall, robust and powerful man ; that he was represented by those who brought him to have Indian blood in his veins, and that his long, straight, black hair, swarthy complexion and features of an Indian seemed to confirm their statement.

"Upon the representation that the patient was a treacherous and dangerous man, the expressions 'homieidal' and 'devilish' being used in the description of his case to Dr. Chase by those who brought him to the hospital, he was put into a retraactory ward ; that his conduct and bearing seemed to confirm this report, but that when his sister, Mrs. Taylor, visited him about a week after he came to the Asylum, and assured Drs. Nichols and Chase that his case had been entirely misrepresented and he was really harmless, White was moved to another ward of the same general character, but where a more quiet class of patients were kept.

"Dr. Chase then testified in regard to Mrs. Taylor's visits to the hospital while the patient White was under his care (the month of Dr. Morrell's absence on leave). On the first occasion, about a week after White came, she saw her brother in a reception room, and after some conversation with him she demanded in an excited manner to see his ward and room, and Dr. Chase accompanied her and her brother to the ward and room ; that she was in a very nervous and excited state, staying in the room but a moment, giving it a very hasty survey, and in her condition of mind could not have appreciated what the room or its condition really was. Upon Mrs. Taylor's return to the reception room she demanded to see and did see Dr. Nichols, and made complaint to him, as Dr.

Chase understood, of her brother's room, bed and surroundings. Dr. Chase testified that he personally inspected the room and bed at once after leaving her, in order to give a truthful reply to the questions he expected to be asked in regard to them by Dr. Nichols, and he found the room clean, the bed clean and good, the blanket had no holes in it, and the husks did not 'stick through a hole in the tick,' as Mrs. Taylor had stated; that, in fact, Mrs. Taylor did not turn down the covering of the bed, and could not have seen such things if they had existed, her examination was so hasty and superficial and her feelings so excited. 'The good quality and abundance of the food given to patients was testified to by this witness, and also that the institution was visited on the first Tuesday of each month by some members of the board of visitors of the hospital, who spent the whole afternoon in a thorough inspection of the wards, patients, and other things properly within their control; that they were frequently engaged constantly from one to five or six o'clock in their tour of inspection, and had full opportunity, which they embraced, to see and know the condition of both wards and patients.'

It is suggested that every person, after reading the testimony of Dr. Chase, will smile.

Note specially.—It seems that twenty men were brought from Dayton Home together; two attendants. This Dr. Chase is supposed to have known, as he said that was the number. Not very refractory.

This statement about Indian blood, homicidal, and devilish was all made up. That is clear as the sun at noonday.

Dr. Chase does not deny Mrs. Taylor, except as to the *hole* in the blanket and the husks. One week had elapsed, during which time Dr. Chase had not seen his Indian blood patient, no doubt for fear of his *scalp*. White was taken to a reception room to see his sister, Mrs. Taylor. He was quiet and harmless then, notwithstanding his one week's imprisonment and cruel neglect. Chase says that after Mrs. Taylor had seen her brother (had heard his statement, no doubt,) she *excitedly* demanded to see her brother's ward and room. Most people, no doubt, would have made a demand in more emphatic terms after learning the cruelties perpetrated upon a brother. The Doctor admits that after Mrs. Taylor saw the room she demanded to see Dr. Nichols; and then did see him and made a complaint. Of these cruelties Dr. Nichols had notice, and then continued the imbecile Dr. Chase as an attendant.

Is it not positive that White was cruelly and outrageously treated? Would Mrs. Taylor have made a demand, excitedly, to see her brother's room if he had not detailed to her the cruel treatment and neglect? Certainly not. Would she, after seeing her brother's room and having confirmation, demanded to see Dr. Nichols if there had been no outrage perpetrated upon her brother? Certainly not. These things show beyond all question the statement of Mrs. Taylor as to her brother to have been true. Such being the fact, and no power on earth to show to the contrary, the defense was driven into a corner. The full fabricated story about Indian blood by Dr. Chase did not seem to answer counsel's idea of testimony, so the defense put Dr. Toner in the witness chair, who testified that Mrs. Taylor, when she came to him to complain, "*was not in a state of mind to distinguish between her impressions and real fact.*"

Mrs. Taylor could not rest until she had informed Dr. Toner, who she was told had something to do with the Asylum, of the dreadful and heart-sickening whipping which she had heard at the Asylum, although, at Dr. Chase's request, she had promised not to say anything about it.

The dreadful screams which she heard from a female voice were ringing in her ears so that she could not rest, and she hastened to Dr. Toner and stated the fact. After stating, the Doctor replied that she had done quite right to come to him and make the complaint, and then he added, that he should not *upbraid* her, but said that she had done wrong in violating her word not to say anything about it. From the testimony of Mrs. Taylor, although she became very much excited at the whipping and her brother's cruel treatment, the reader will not fail to believe every word of it, notwithstanding the foolish statements of the two witnesses who gave evidence for the defense on excitability and Indian blood. After Dr. Chase and Dr. Toner had testified, to avoid the effect of Mrs. Taylor's testimony the defense called to the chair the most wonderful *scientist* from near Mount Holyoke, Dr. Walker, who testified on general principles that "*women* in hysterical attacks sometimes beat themselves and then scream so that a person outside would suppose that some one was being whipped." This remarkable scientist on *hysterical* phenomena did not inform us whether his *discovery* extended so far as to show that *women*, so self-beating and screaming would at the same time, as each blow or lash succeeded lash, *exclaim*

in mournful and sickening tones "*Oh ! Doctor !*" "*Oh ! Doctor !*" and when the whipper would pause for breath, the *exclamation* would be, in death-like tones, "*Oh, Doctor, for mercy sake don't strike me.*" If Walker's discovery had gone to that extent then possibly some may have concluded that Mrs. Taylor's testimony had been *vanquished* by Dr. Walker. It is positive from the facts sustaining Mrs. Taylor, her minute description, time, place, position, the attendants present, running to and fro, that the awful whipping was given to a patient; doubtless that patient soon passed away. If Mrs. Taylor had not stated truly, the attendants who saw her there and heard her make inquiries would have been *swift* to give evidence for the defense to contradict her, and besides it is evident from the testimony of Dr. Toner that Mrs. Taylor stated truly to him, as he did not deny her statement; and it is further evident that Dr. Toner saw from Mrs. Taylor's statement that she had promised Dr. Chase not to speak of it and that he, Chase, desired secrecy—therefore he promised not to upbraid her, but charged her with doing wrong by violating her word. Comment is certainly unnecessary; the heart revolts at such exhibitions of want of care of patients and such covering up of cruel treatment.

The testimony of the three Doctors, evidently got up from the *Indian blood story* and the *hysterical* imagination of the scientist from Northampton, only provokes ridicule, and calls to mind the forcible injunction of Swift :

"Affect not little shifts and subterfuges,
To avoid the force of the" testimony.

We thank God that there is *yet* sufficient human feeling and love of truth *left* in the *heart* of man to repel the effect of such *fiction* as that of the three Doctors named.

IN THE CASE OF GENERAL LOOMIS.

We do not deem it necessary to add anything in this case except to copy the order or record introduced by the defense to discredit Geo. M. Dow, a witness who testified in the case. One of the employed letter-writers for effect had stated that Dow had been discharged for lying and stealing, which appears not to have been true, and that the writer of the letter well knew it. We quote the copy of the record in full as given in evidence by the defense :

"NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME,
HAMPTON, VA., March 3, 1875.

"By order of General B. F. Butler, president board of managers, the order for the readmission to the National Home of George M. Dow, late company B, 11th U. S. infantry, is hereby revoked. Dow is incorrigible, and by his reckless conduct and flagrant contempt of the regulations of the Home has exhausted the clemency of the president of the board of managers and of the commandant.

"He will not be readmitted to any other Home.

"P. T. WOODFIN,
"Deputy Governor."

It seems that Dow, after serving his country as a soldier in the ranks, *which some men* who talk loud and claim much *did not do*, he chanced to offend "*Butler*," and his admission order was revoked by the would-be tyrant. The testimony of Dow has not in any one materiality disputed by the defense, they hoping to quash his evidence because of the record. It is altogether too late in the age of time to make any such objections. Cruel treatment of insane patients cannot go unwhipped upon such objections.

It is evident from the testimony that there was in the case of General Loomis great neglect of duty and cruel treatment. He was not a crazy patient; his disease was softening of the brain, as was stated by the Superintendent to his friends.

EUGENE M. WALLACE.

This witness testified that he had been an attendant at the asylum. "I saw a great deal of suffering and things that I did not like to see, and I was sorry that I had taken the place. Men were *tied down* and I thought them suffering. They were tied night and day. In the daytime the flies would swarm over them, and I would often go and stay by them and keep off the flies. I have seen men there with their faces covered with flies and no way of getting them off except by shaking their heads.

"Dr. Morrell stated, in his testimony, that I had lost a man when I had men to work on the river wall. Dr. Morrell told me to take the men down to the river wall to work, and I took four men, and they worked there every day in the broiling hot sun on the river wall for ten hours. It was enough to make them

sick. One day I took this man out. I had had him the day before, and carried him back to the Asylum. The next morning I went to receive these men. I had not received any order from Dr. Morrell not to take them, and I went to get the same men, and the man said he was sick and could not work. I happened to meet Dr. Morrell on the steps coming down from the ward, and I says, 'Doctor, this man is sick,' and the man himself said, 'I will die before I will go back to work, as I worked yesterday. I will let you kill me first.' I turned to Dr. Morrell and said, 'What shall we do with this man?' Dr. Morrell said, 'You had better take him down and try him till dinner-time anyway;' so I had this man down there, and he slipped off to the bushes, but I could not leave the others to find him. When I did get a chance to go I went in search of him, but could not find him, and reported it to Dr. Morrell. In building the river wall he had to lift heavy rock; heavy stones had to be used, and he said it hurt his back. I saw the attendant when he spoke to Dr. Morrell about the water-closets.

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS LYNCH.

I was employed at the Asylum on the 17th of June, 1875, and remained there until September 9 of the same year. I was there twice; the first time I commenced in November, 1868, and left in February, 1869. I left the institution because I had a family, and could not get any money. I was there nearly three months, and could not get any pay. I was kept out of my money a couple of weeks after I left. While I was there I saw patients cruelly treated by attendants. One day I saw three of them, named O'Brian, Knott, and Scott, *beat* a patient badly. They *beat* and *kicked* him, striking him with their shut fists. I saw bruises on his body, the result of the knocks and beating that he got. He was confined to his room for a week in consequence of the beating. He was an old man, but quite active for his age. He was always willing to work, but he did not work for some time afterward, for he had to keep his room. He was about sixty years of age, and they called him Charlie. It was in Sycamore ward where this occurred. During my last stay there I saw an attendant named John Boyle hit patients in Gray Ash ward. He was a high-tempered man, and I suppose he thought it was the only way he could get satisfaction, by hitting them. I have seen ver-

min on patients. I made a practice of combing their heads every bath day, Friday, I think, and all that I ever had to comb had lice, more or less; some a good many and some not so many. I got them in my own head at last. One man that I remember of had body lice. I think he came there with them. Some of the patients got enough to eat and some did not. During the time I was there Dr. Nichols came through my ward but once, except on committee day, which was once a month. One other time he came to see a patient who was in a dying condition. The dining room was not kept clean, for the reason that the waste water could not escape. I did keep it clean as well as I could. We had to carry the water out in buckets. The water would come down from other wards, and we would have to keep it clean in spite of that. I had no instructions as to my duty when I went there. I suppose it was left to the older attendants to instruct me."

TESTIMONY OF DR. DEXTER.

We refer to the testimony of this witness, who was a patient in the Asylum. The efforts of Dr. Chase to destroy the testimony of this witness because he once thought he was an important personage, but when he testified had more brains and was more sane than a dozen of such men as Dr. Chase, who seems, from frequent calling, to be one of the standing witnesses for the defense.

TESTIMONY OF J. E. BENSON.

John E. Benson, the hospital steward and pharmacist at the Asylum, testified that he has been and is now employed at the Insane Asylum for the past two years, and put up all the medicines and prescriptions for the patients. He said that several weeks ago he was asked what he thought of the evidence of Dr. Morrell as printed in the Star by some one in the Asylum, and he answered that if Dr. Morrell testified that the patients had meat and vegetables for breakfast he knowingly testified to what was false. The storekeeper at the Asylum never furnished meats and vegetables for breakfast to the patients in the back wards—soldiers and sailors. Meat and vegetables may be furnished the pay patients, but never to the soldier and sailor patients. Dr. Nichols' visits through the Asylum did not average one a month, though since this investigation has begun his visits have been frequent.

Dr. Nichols, however, has been through the wards since Sunday last. It was not true, as testified to, that Dr. Nichols visited the wards every Sunday and often during the day and night to see sick patients. During the past two years Dr. Nichols has written but two prescriptions, and those were for sick horses. He has not written a single prescription for sick patients during all of that time. Frequently they ran out of medicines and drugs, and there is great delay in furnishing them. To-day there is not a bit of carbolic acid in the Asylum. It has been out for several days. It is very important to have carbolic acid on hand. They are also out of other drugs. Witness was present when the police officer, O'Connell, who dumped the female patients in New York according to orders, returned and reported to Dr. Nichols and the other doctors at the Asylum how he did it. Patients were frequently worked on the farm during heavy rains. Had seen attendants strike patients, and referred to one case in particular, that of Lieut. Dannenhower, master at arms United States Navy, who resides at 1321 H street. He had seen attendants strike him several times. Lieut. Dannenhower is not there now.

The testimony of Mr. Benson was taken from a newspaper report of it. Comment upon the facts stated by this witness seems to be unnecessary. The facts stated were such that there can be no disputing. He put up all the medicines for two years—he must know all about the medical treatment of the patients for that length of time. It is a noticeable fact that on the thirteenth of June, the day when Benson gave his testimony, they had been out of carbolic acid several days—the article was used for cleansing purposes, killing vermin, and is a very necessary article to have in the institution. It seems that about the time the stock on hand gave out the Asylum had been cleansed and put in order for the visit of the committee, which took place then.

O. W. Marsh, a former patient, gave testimony of a corroborative character. He said he knew of persons being carried on the pay rolls who did not work, and knew of patients being shipped away from the Asylum to Baltimore, and from there sent to Prussia. (See further his testimony early in the investigation as assisting clerk.)

The defense recalled Dr. Chase, and Hamlin, and Lyon, the clerk, who did their best as usual to discredit the witnesses Benson and Marsh, but failed entirely. If Benson was in error in his

statements they had the *orders* to show, but they made no effort, whatever, to show the orders.

TESTIMONY OF JANE BEATTY.

This witness was an attendant in 1864 and 1865. She left the hospital in August, 1855. She left because the work was too hard for her. She testified: Never saw patients abused badly, but know that the patients did not have the comforts that they should have. They did not have proper clothing or proper food. Was formerly an attendant at the Pennsylvania hospital, where the patients were treated a great deal better. Had considerable experience as an attendant. Always attended female patients; do not know anything about the wards for male patients. The food was not sufficient, the tea being very poor, the meat often tainted. The rooms were cold in the winter time. Have seen the fingers of some of the lady patients frozen. Another one had the top of her nose frozen. During a Christmas week there were no fires. Have often been required to put patients in rooms without any beds. There were no drying rooms attached to some of the wards. Nothing can be done without the orders of Dr. Nichols, who is engaged so much outside that he cannot properly attend to the patients. One time Dr. Nichols did not go through the wards for three months. The visiting committee hurried through the wards, and seldom looked into the rooms. Have seen vermin on bed clothing when it came up from the laundry.

FIFTY SEVEN WITNESSES FOR HUMANITY.

The testimony of a large number of witnesses, many of whom give evidence of cruel treatment in several specific cases and generally. The testimony quoted in these pages is but a small part of the whole. The early witnesses gave testimony more generally, and from data which cannot be questioned. We refer to the testimony, and quote part:

JOHN A. DARLING,

who was employed as clerk at the Asylum for several months, testified that the Superintendent only saw the institution once a week, never went into the wards except on Sunday; that the

patients did not receive proper attention; they were dirty and filthy—in many cases *lousy*. In some of the wards there were as many as six insane patients put into one ward, and they would fight. Several deaths occurred in consequence of that—as many as three. No investigation made in consequence of that. These patients were soldiers. A report was made out every month to the Adjutant General of the army showing how many soldiers were there, how many died during the month, and causes of death. In the back wards the public do not go. Visitors could only see a few of the patients in the best wards. Visitors were never allowed to go into the worst wards where the patients were crammed together.

The three persons (soldiers) came to their death by negligence. There was only one man guard for all the rooms in one wing on the male side—ten wards, each ward about fourteen rooms, four floors.

THEODORE F. WILSON,

who was an attendant in 1864, in Poplar ward, said that ward is known as one of the visiting wards. There was a great deal of work there. I was transferred there after Mr. Mellish was brought there. I was made his special attendant. I found several patients there who had evidently been neglected. They were suffering from sores—from bed sores. I took a great deal of pains to look after these men. When the attention of this physician (Millish) was called by me to these patients, the remark was made by him to me that *I was too sensitive*. This man was suffering from inflammation of the stomach. I called Dr. Morrell's attention to this case three different times, and I know he paid no attention whatever to it. This witness states as to other cases, which we will not take time to quote.

DR. THOMPSON,

a patient, who testified to facts showing such a state of ignorance on the part of the attending physicians and such cruel treatment that punishment should certainly follow. There can be no excuse for such conduct as the officials were guilty of in his case.

MR. O. W. MARSH,

a patient, and then a bookkeeper, who testified that he had seen patients not properly cared for. Excitable patients would be put together and they would fight and injure one another. They were permitted to remain together for years. The Superintendent would go through the wards on the first Tuesday of each month with the visiting board. He would sometimes go through with the physicians on a Sunday, but not very often. I suppose in the ward where I was two or three months would elapse between his visits. The board of visitors walk through the institution without stopping; they would pay about as much attention as any one who would not have any interest there. They go through all the male wards in about an hour.

HENRY MILLER.

This witness testified that he worked in the bakeshop for three years. He said, I bake all the bread for the institution, except the Doctor's bread. There was one hundred pounds musty flour and one hundred pounds that was strong of garlic. The flour was very bad. I had to use it. The butter was terrible bad. The coffee to the patients some of it terrible bad. For the pay-wards and the officers they got extra pots on the ranges.

I used the flour where the patients could not taste it; that was in order to prevent their knowing it was spoiled. I told the housekeeper and steward that the flour was spoiled. I told Mr. Lyon. I told Baker, the steward, many times about the flour. I knew that there was spoiled pork; the pork was so bad I was not able to put the beans in the oven for the smell. The pork was so bad it was offensive. I told the steward of it, and he walked off and laughed; this occurred more than a dozen of times. For a whole year long the corned beef was rotten most of the time; in the majority of cases it was spoiled. It was known to the steward; every body knowed it; it was thrown up to him, and all he gave the people answer was, Whoever it don't suit could leave.

H. L. WEEKS.

This witness stated that he was the gardener and lived on the grounds; had been since April, 1874. There are several irregularities. I think Dr. Nichols is *derelict* in duty sometimes in not

looking after matters himself instead of leaving them to others. One irregularity is the manner in which the steward carries on the slaughter-house, salting the meat, &c. For two years that I have been there, since April, 1874, they have killed a number of hogs and attempted to cure the meat, and it spoiled on their hands. About forty hogs were killed last fall. I saw them cutting it up. The man said he would not cut it; that it smelled so bad that he could not stay in the meat room. I was through the meat room, and the meat certainly did not smell fit for any one to eat; it was spoiled. We had meat sent to Walnut ward for breakfast that no one at the table ate. We could not eat it; it was offensive. I think all the hams and shoulders of the forty hogs spoiled. *They cut and fed the spoiled meat to the patients.* There has been a great deal of bad butter. When I boarded at the hospital we very frequently had butter on the table that was not fit to eat. The corned beef did not always smell good when it came there.

HENRY B. TYLER.

This witness stated that in 1874 he was an attendant in Maple ward about four months. There were nine to twelve patients in the ward; some of them insane. Maple ward was a *pay ward*. The day before the visiting board was to come the attendants would be notified to have every thing clean, *patients and wards*. The patients were dressed up clean and the wards cleaned. After the inspectors left things would go back the same as they were before. Dr. Nichols did not attend to his duty; he was but once in the ward I was in except on the visiting days. Mr. Lane who died said he could not eat the food.

NOTE.—It will be remembered that General Barnes stated that “he judged that the patients had plenty to eat—he judged from the *quantity left over* after eating.” May it not be a fact that the quantity left over was of the *strong butter* and *rotten meat* that the patients could not eat? *The General did not taste of it.*

MARY F. AMBROSE.

This witness had a son, Oliver D. Ambrose, who became insane from the effect of the assassination of President Lincoln, who happened to be sitting near the box in which Mr. Lincoln was killed. When Booth jumped out of the box Oliver shouted “Booth!” “Booth!”

After a while Mrs. Ambrose placed her son in the Asylum, Dr. Eastman showing her a ward where her son would be cared for, which was satisfactory. The witness stated that she made efforts to see her son time and time again, and could never do so. She then took assistance with her, and was refused. The witness then said: "I will see my son this morning, or that door shall come down." "Well," said Dr. Eastman, "if you must see him, you can." Dr. Franklin then opened the door and I pressed in, and he took me through a long corridor where the patients were all seated on benches. He conducted me along until I got to the end of the corridor, and then took me down some steps, and brought me into a little corner of a place, not much larger than a man could lie down in—a little vestibule, it looked like, but they called it a "strong room." Said I, What do you call this room? Said he, That is the "strong room." Why, there is no heat. It was as cold as possible in there, and the poor boy was blue with cold. His skin seemed to be perfectly purple. He was cold and trembling all over, and had fallen away so much in flesh that I scarcely knew him. When the door was opened he screamed out, "Oh, my ma, are you going to take me home?" My son ran up to me, and I put a shawl around him, and he said, "Ma, are you going to take me home? Please take me home." I said, "I certainly shall," and I turned to Dr. Franklin and said, "Ain't you ashamed of yourself, to treat a poor boy like that? How could you do such a thing?" He was very cool, and said to me, in an off-handed way, "Madam, if your son is insane, here is the place for him." I took my son and carried him into the parlor. He was covered with vermin. His back was actually eaten away by vermin. They had eaten holes in his body. There were marks of violence on his body and arms. He did not show any violence. He was in the Asylum eight weeks. He weighed 155 pounds when I put him in, and 90 pounds when I took him out.

We forbear quoting all this witness stated, for the reason the case was so horrible and cruel that language fails to describe it.

Efforts were made at that time (1865) to investigate the management. Senator Wade moved in the matter, but nothing could be done. The power was safe; the neglect of duty was safe; the cruel and inhuman treatment was safe from the outside eye; the ignorant and beastly assisting physicians were safe in their conduct. Insane persons or any one within the walls complaining

were not listened to. The brutish, cruel attendants could beat, bruise, kick, and ill-treat the patients without risk of a discharge, with a few exceptions.

Is it possible that in 1865, a few weeks after the boy Oliver D. Ambrose was placed in the Asylum, Dr. Franklin or Dr. Eastman could not discover whether the boy was insane or not?

The fact is plain that those assisting physicians (so-called) either did not know anything about insanity, or that they had not seen the boy for eight weeks, during the entire time the boy was there. We charge the fact to be that neither Eastman or Franklin had seen the boy. Take the testimony, which is not disputed. Mrs. Ambrose's mother called, but could not see her grandson. No one but his mother could see him, was the answer. Then his mother made efforts, and after a time she was admitted. Note the answer of Dr. Franklin: "Madam, if your son is insane, this is the place for him." This remark shows that Franklin did not know the boy's case. No doubt whatever he had not seen him before. But it turned out that the boy was not insane, and if Franklin or Eastman had attended to their duty they would have found the boy weeks before well enough to go home. Not one item of proof did the defense show or attempt to show that the boy had been examined by any physician from the day he entered until he left, to show his case whether better or worse. This is one case, and if the graves could speak others of the like, only worse, could answer.

Why did not the defense call Dr. Franklin from New York city to show how this boy had been treated. We answer, because he was not a man like Eastman, who disgraced himself in the mind of every man who read his testimony, or who may read it hereafter.

Take the questions of counsel to Dr. Eastman and his answers, and it will plainly be seen that fraud and false-coloring was designed. How very ridiculous the pretense to discredit the testimony of Darling. Why did the Doctor not go and get the reports made to the Adjutant General, and show by the handwriting? The pretense of a memoranda in his pocket was foolish, when he had the means within his power, if the witness had not stated truly; and besides, Dr. Nichols himself does not deny that Darling acted as clerk, and that every word he testified to was true.

How long will such sham be tolerated? There is altogether too

much money to be used in the management by one man to expect justice and humanity to prevail without a struggle—a desperate struggle. Money is power, and it often crushes justice. The people will sooner or later put out such management.

These witnesses show extreme cruelty of one kind or another, more or less extending over many years, showing such neglect of duty on the part of the Superintendent as no man can excuse, and such as cannot be excused or suffered longer to exist. In fact the neglect on the part of the Superintendent shows such a disregard of duty, of official oath, that it comes clearly within high misdemeanor; the cruelty is revolting to all feelings of humanity.

The testimony shows that the Superintendent for several years has given but little attention to the patients; that he has trusted the inside of the asylum to assistants who the testimony shows to have been incompetent almost from the first, as the present attending physicians are. The neglect has been so great and the attendants so very incompetent that nothing short of a clean wiping out of every man in charge will answer the demand of the people.

If the reader of these pages will read but a tithe of the testimony, and then read the law of the asylum, he will say, as Boynton said, that if half is true hanging would be too good for every one of them. No man will say that the testimony against the management is not true and overwhelming. Comments cannot add to its force and convincing elements. There are such numbers, such quantity, giving particulars, acts, facts, and circumstances that all effort to explain, to excuse, becomes swamped at once, and no power can extricate.

WITNESSES TO CONTRADICT AND EXCUSE.

The defense has introduced several witnesses to contradict, excuse, and to cover up and hide from the light of day the facts as far as possible.

The principal witnesses, some of whom have been called several times, seem to have been confined chiefly to items to contradict—to swear that they did *not see*, that they did *not hear*, that they did *not remember*, and that they did *not think* the *time* was quite as long; and also items to excuse, to get up a reason to gloss over, to show insane theories, and make display of science on hysterical striking and excitability.

ONE FACT UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DISPUTE.

The fact that for years the Superintendent made no visits to the wards to examine the patients and prescribe for them cannot be disputed. Perhaps two or three cases he may have called oftener than once a week. It is not clear that he averaged once in seven days. Williams testified that the Superintendent did not for months visit the wards. Other witnesses prove the fact. Dr. Nichols does not show by his own testimony that he averaged once a week, and that simply standing inspection organized under Walker's tactics.

The testimony of C. F. Carter shows the most cruel and brutish treatment of Frank McAdams by Hettermann and one other; it shows kicking in the side and elsewhere; that he died soon after from the injury. This awfully inhuman treatment was immediately made known to Dr. Morrell, who gave Carter a plaster to put on the bruise, which seems to be the last Dr. Morrell saw of the patient McAdams. We have it in evidence from Dr. Morrell that he watched this cruel man Hettermann—he so swears—but did not discharge him. We might refer to many cases, showing direct knowledge of beating, kicking, and other hard treatment of many patients, by the attending physicians, which was not noticed by them; not reported; if they did report no action was taken of them.

Has the law been obeyed? Has there been "*the most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of patients*," such as the law demands? The power and skill used to cover up the cruel treatment, the fraud and wrong, shows guilt. The great efforts made to destroy truthful testimony by the defense is most extraordinary, and shows *guilt*. The bold and daring and unjustifiable course taken by the defense to save the accused shows great guilt.

The invited newspaper writers, who gave false statements to cover up the truth and to cast reproach upon the efforts to investigate and show the charges true, most clearly shows guilt. The charges and threats against the witnesses show the greatest degree of guilt.

HOSPITAL OVER-CROWDED.

There has been an effort made to show an excuse for some neglect in the care and curative attention to the patients because of the

want of room for 750 inmates. General Barnes was interrogated as follows:

“Q. No. 17. In visiting in your turn, according to the roster, state what inspection you make, the nature and fullness thereof, and the care that you exercise as a Government officer, representing the Government, to comply with the statute, to detect and prevent abuse of all kinds, and the interest of humanity and right, which ought to be exposed; I wish you, as a Government officer, to state it. This investigation is not to conceal, but to disclose everything there is about the hospital.

“A. Every visit made by the members of the board, according to the roster, is entered upon the minutes, stating the condition of the institution; and there is no record in existence showing any fault in the management of the institution. There is, however, a fault, and a very great one, but for which the institution is not liable. It is not as large as is required by one-third. We have seven hundred and fifty men crowded into a space only calculated for five hundred and fifty. We cannot arrange the patients according to the violence of their insanity. We have to put two in a room which one should be in, three in a room which two should be in, and five in a room in which three should be, and have to put the violent patients with those who are less violent. The institution is too small, and we have been begging for years to have more room, so that we could have the present building for men. We have been asking for a separate building for females. There is now a petition to that effect before the House.

“Q. No. 18. Under the law and under the regulations which govern that Asylum, has Dr. Nichols any more responsibility than I have for the reception or non-reception of patients—does he not have to take those who are sent there?

“A. He is bound by the law, and he cannot turn them away, and that is the only reason why he is overwhelmed.”

The reports of prior years, taking into the count the per cent. increase of insane persons, it is true that the Asylum is overcrowded, because of the positive *violation of law* by the Superintendent. Of this there is not the least possible doubt.

It is a fact that over one-half of the inmates of the Asylum to-day have no right there to the exclusion of army, navy, and marine persons, who are first entitled to enter the Asylum.

The answer of General Barnes to question No. 18 shows that he did not understand the law; for by the law the Superintendent

is not bound to receive pay patients unless when there are vacancies. The large number of pay patients in the Asylum should be removed so as to reduce the number to the capacity of the building, so that there may be plenty of room for army and navy patients, for all the Government patients (so called) at all times, so that they may be properly roomed and classified for care and comfort. Unless the Government desires to establish a mammoth boarding house for *pay patients*, so-called private patients, and give to them exclusive privileges *over soldiers*, then there is no want of more land or more room space. It is the want of attention to the Government patients, of which all complain. Proper attention has been refused them, because the pay patients are first cared for, permitted to occupy the best rooms, walk and drive in the grounds, and generally receive the attentions of the attendants even to the exclusion of the soldier. The fact is, the long term of service of the present Superintendent, his multifarious duties, his familiarity with suffering and sorrow has made him a *lord unto himself*, both as to the admission of private patients and the management of the institution. The law of Congress declaring his duty and the treatment is and has been wantonly disobeyed.

It is feared that under the present *dynasty* the Asylum will be a place simply for soldiers to stay a short period until the messenger of death calls them to their last home, *instead* of its being an asylum for soldiers, where the *most humane care and enlightened curative treatment may be received from competent men*.

In question No. 17 counsel for the defense inquires of General Barnes as to the visiting board complying with the statute to detect and prevent abuses of all kinds, counsel adding, "*this investigation is not to conceal, but to disclose everything.*" It will be seen from the evidence on the part of the defense that their purpose has been to *conceal* and cover up the *abuses* charged against the Superintendent, instead of "*disclosing everything.*" The answer of General Barnes to question No. 17 shows unmistakably that he did not know the law which he was charged to see respected and obeyed. Certainly the General was wide from the mark when he testified that Dr. Nichols had no more power to refuse admission of patients to the Asylum than his counsel had. Such is not the fact as to *pay patients*, who now overfill the Asylum. The law does not mean that the Asylum may be filled with pay patients so that there be no vacancies to receive soldiers. If such is the law then Congress ought at once to act.

Has there been a return to barbaric ages? It seems from the proofs that the attending physicians have fallen back to *olden times*, and have the *idea* that when the *mind* of *man* is deranged or obscured that his *soul* is *gone*; therefore humanity is out of the consideration, and the patient may be treated worse than a brute and permitted to linger and *die*.

If such treatment as proved is to be tolerated for a day, then it will be proof positive that the boasted civilization and refinement of the nineteenth century has taken its departure, and the barbaric age has taken its place—that principle has left its *throne* and proud eminence for *money-bags*.

It is pretty evident that some of the authorities have so far forgotten the law—forgotten their oaths, their duty, and forgotten principles—that nothing short of *detailing* the horrible enormities which have been proven in this case and publish them to the world in living colors to awaken the public mind to speedily correct the great wrong shown to exist in the Asylum will answer any good. History gives us an account that men in charge of *insane* persons and *idiots* at an early period of civilization treated them quite as humanely as the soldiers and sailors in this Asylum have been treated for the last few years. In those barbaric days men of philanthropy, men having hearts, men of noble instincts, were compelled, in order to excite attention to the cruelties, to detail the terrible and inhuman treatment of the insane and demented in the deepest coloring possible. At periods of later date, according to history, even up to the early part of the present century, the insane were restrained in hospitals by chains, iron collars, and straight-jackets, by fastening them to their beds or strong chairs; of course they had sufficient power of motion to brush off swarms of flies. How differs the treatment in this Asylum? What improvement has been made in the last three-quarters of a century? Where is the man, where is the inventive mind which has given any thought to a humane mode of restraint? No one among the many as yet has ever got up a patent upon a jacket, a camisole, wristers, collar, or anything to reach the object without its being a *torture machine*. The fact shows clearly that of all the men engaged in asylums and in hospitals for more than one hundred years none have given any thought upon the subject, to make improvements in that line. Instruments of torture and modes of cruel treatment have been invented and put in use by the men in charge.

When restraint is necessary it seems to be of no consequence to the attendants how it is effected. They would as soon use the chain to fasten them to the floor as a rope. They would as soon tie the patient to the floor hand and foot, so he could not brush off flies, as any other way. They tie down day and night, so the witness Wallace testified.

Oh, horrible, horrible! oh, cruel, cruel man! How can you forget a brother and become a beast, a demon, that you can see humanity depart from thy soul and become a homicidist, a devil? In the name of humanity, what *torture* can be more cruel than this? The punishment of crime by the boot devised by the *démons* of early days, in barbaric times, was no more cruel than the treatment proved by witness Wallace. Have the early days of torture and treatment of the insane actually returned, with increased brutality?

Is it possible that in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, this Centennial year, such things exist at the capital of the most humane Government on earth, and yet, after fifty-five witnesses have testified and shown untold cruel treatment to have existed for many years in the Asylum, the voice raised in favor of humanity is crushed, or attempted to be crushed, by false charges, perjury, slander, and the lowest billingsgate by the defense? The cruelty seems to have extended beyond the incompetent attendant. Complaints at different times have been made of the cruelties, and no ear but a *deaf one* turned, and that with contempt.

The great wrong should be stopped, and that speedily. Does it not appear that every man in the management is incompetent? Is the chief officer of the institution such a person as the *law provides* he shall be? Has he the experience in *care* and treatment of insane persons which the law declares he shall have? Has he shown the *most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the Army and Navy patients*, such as the law requires? Certainly not; no, *never, never*. It is not necessary to ask why; the reason is plain to be seen. For what purpose did counsel write to Miss D. L. Dix, and obtain from her a letter, which he put in evidence with these words: "I testify unreservedly that during the long period of my acquaintance with Dr. Nichols I have known his habits to have been, and to be, strictly temperate, and assiduous in business; never self-indulgent in *eating, drinking, recreations*, nor negligent in the discharge of *diverse duties*; but constantly, month by month and year succeeding year, interested, from prin-

ciple as well as ready choice, in the labors of his profession." This high opinion of Miss Dix seems to be entirely out of place, for two reasons: first, she has had none or but little opportunity to judge; she has simply seen the surface, and that but for a short time; second, she has not heard the testimony in the case; therefore her opinion is not worth a sovereign. The time was when Miss Dix, on hearing testimony of such treatment, would have made a more positive demand than Mrs. Taylor made. Miss Dix, like another before her, *cites reputation* to wipe out testimony, the sworn testimony of scores of witnesses. Will the public forever shut their eyes? Will glossary override positive facts? As to some things, quite as firmly, *once fixed* by station, talent, and reputation, men have been compelled to believe against their will.

Miss Dix says, further: "When, therefore, such a man is charged with willful inhumanities, with sanctioning or permitting brutality and severe cruelty in the treatment of the helpless and dependent persons intrusted to him for guardian protection and healing treatment, *it is as safe as it is sure to say* such charges cannot be sustained." Miss Dix writes from the Western Pennsylvania Insane Hospital, Dixmont, Allegheny county, Pa., and no doubt believes that humane persons cannot become cruel.

It is universally admitted that men and women engaged in caring for the insane and paralytic unfortunates in asylums, that familiarity with suffering and sorrow has often, to some extent, and in other instances to a much greater extent, *deadened* their sensibilities and sympathies, so that they become cruel, very cruel, and suffer inhuman treatment to be inflicted by not giving proper attention to attendants. Men long accustomed to govern in such institutions become a kind of supreme law unto themselves, and the *rule of force* often usurps the *law of love*.

The attending physicians, second and third in command, will never inform on each other, nor will they report to the superintendent against the attendants, especially their favorites, they all all being upon a salary and have no interest except to let the time pass on to draw their pay. The ward attendants will not report each other, so that nineteen-twentieths of the beating and strikings are never reported. The attending physicians do not visit the wards unless they are called, and if they chance to hear of cruelties they pass them by. The result is the institution is left to *run itself* to a great extent, with a few *lazy men* who stand

round and order the patients to do the dirty work and scrub the floors.

The Superintendent, as shown by the testimony, does not perform the duties of his office, *not* even by others, with his aid and advice. Does it anywhere appear that the superintendent sees that the

DUTIES OF ASSISTING PHYSICIANS

are performed, which duties, among other things, are to visit the wards *frequently*, to carefully note the conditions and progress of the patients, to promptly report cases of neglect or abuse that may come under their notice? If these things were seen to every day the patients would not be left day after day without water or food when in a high state of fever. Men would not be tied down day and night; no let-up for motion or rest. (See the testimony of Thompson, Dexter, Wallace, and others.) The facts show clearly a great neglect of duty in the officer in chief. The neglect shown is criminal—the neglect permitted incompetent and cruel men to beat, bruise, and shamefully treat the patients, all of which is chargeable to the Superintendent direct, for which he must answer.

The Asylum is not for a *torture house* for the soldiers and sailors. It is for men who by services in war became disabled. The Asylum was built for a humane institution, in which invalid soldiers and sailors may have a home and support, and receive from competent hands the *most* humane care and enlightened curative treatment, as the law provides.

Has the time come when humanity speaks for the wrongs and oppression of the insane inmate of the Asylum, when the voice so raised and speaking may be stifled and choked and the parties abused, vilified, slandered, and threatened by the guilty and their advocates with impunity? It seems so in this case, such are their acts and conduct.

My son had an order from the Secretary of the Navy, dated October 28, 1869, giving him a home in the Asylum, free of charge from that day until he should gain his perfect health. The law declared that my son should be entitled to have and receive *the most humane care and enlightened curative treatment in the Asylum at the hands of the management.*

Under the order my son entered the Asylum, fully supplied

with fine clothing and linen, which I furnished from choice—not obliged to do so under the law and order.

After about three years, finding that my son had not been cared for in the Asylum as the law provided, and finding that he had been cruelly treated and shamefully neglected, on the 17th day of September, 1873, I took him from the Asylum, and have been obliged to care for him myself since that time, when from illness and losses I have not been able to do so. My son is to-day entitled to his home in the Asylum and to the treatment stated, which the law gives and provides. But I cannot place my son in the Asylum to be ill-treated, pounded, bruised, and neglected, to be eaten up by vermin, by parasites of men. Such a valuable right to my son is of great consideration to his mother in her declining years. Should she be taken away from him God only knows what would become of Edgar.

If this Asylum can be restored to the true purposes for which it was organized, and become such an Asylum as the law demands, then my son could return to his home and not be ill-treated, and where he could be as happy as his present condition would admit of. But as it is now, it will be impossible to return my son to the Asylum, although there has been a great change for the better since this Congress met. Should the investigation cease there would be great doubt as to the then future. It may be that the teachings of the investigation will work a change in the management of the Asylum and benefit the inmates. There has been a slight look in that direction.

ONE BRIGHT STAR OF HOPE.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.—The Committee on the Expenditures of the Interior Department, who have been for some time investigating the management of the United States Insane Asylum, visited the Asylum yesterday, on invitation of Dr. Nichols, for the purpose of inspecting the institution. The committee saw everything that Dr. Nichols wanted them to see. Everything was in excellent order, great preparations having been made for the reception of the committee.—*From the Chronicle.*

It is rejoicing to my heart to learn how happy some of the inmates were made by the visit of the committee. The inmates seemed to understand and realize that they were indebted to the Democratic House of Representatives for their improved treatment. After the committee left the inmates of the Asylum offered up many prayers to their God for the blessings to them that

far, and prayed for a continuance of the same. They prayed that the *Stars* might shine bright on the pathway of the committee in every act toward restoring the Asylum to the objects and purposes which the law provides. It was remarked by some that the Democratic House was a godsend to the army and navy patients in the Asylum.

WE MAKE THIS SUGGESTION.

Inasmuch as we are to still have in this city music from the "Marine Band," (thanks to Mr. Harrison, member from Chicago,) we suggest that the usefulness of the "band" be extended so that the full band be required to go to the asylum twice in each week and discourse soul-cheering music for three hours each day to the inmates of the asylum.

"Attune to all the harmony of song,
And counsels 'gainst the *tide of wrong*,
As the bright bow of promise, painted in a cloud
Whose shadow wraps all nature in a shroud,
In graceful harmony contrasting colors blend,
Though differing all, have yet a common end ;
So hope, triumphant in this manly heart,
With music's charms could ne'er consent to part."

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage."

It may be said that if the "band" had been required to enliven the hearts of the soldiers and marines at the asylum at the time when Thomas W. White was received at the asylum, and the celebrated Dr. Chase from his science imagined that he was an Indian with "homicidal" instincts, having great fears for his *scalp*, the poor soldier might have been treated by Dr. Chase with humanity instead of the outrageous treatment which he gave him. There is a *voice in music* which cannot be resisted. It is the *Heaven* awarded to the *soul of man*, especially when brooding over a condition which only death can relieve.

Let not our suggestion be treated lightly, there is humanity in it, there is to the unfortunate soldier, who has by his condition become melancholy, perhaps demented, life-cheering and soul-reviving spirit in music which reminds the patient of other days and says to him that his country for which he lost his hopes in this life, still loves him and will cheer his pathway as long as he lives. The raving maniac will become quiet at the sound of music, the harp alone has done it. The melancholy patient, who

sits all day long brooding over his condition, will at the sound of music *cheer up and sing*.

"The breeze comes sweet from Heaven,
Sweet music in the air,
Heralds my last days coming."

Let the star spangled banner wave over the asylum, so the soldier may see it float in the breeze to remind him that he is not forgotten by his country. Oh! what an awful thought is war. *He who does not go* and he who comes out sound have no idea of the suffering of the soldier who by his wounds or by disease loses his almost life, and his reason departs from what is left of him or he becomes helpless from paralysis, and can only *sit thinking, thinking* that only death can relieve him from his suffering.

DISABILITY OF EDGAR.

For the purpose of showing the great loss to me, and the suffering my son has passed through and his hopeless case, I give the evidences upon which a small pension was allowed to him by the law at different dates and the evidence upon which Edgar was given *a home in the asylum*, the beneficent charity of the people: "And whose *beneficence* no charge exhausts." After my son was taken sick on board of *Flagship* Blackhawk, under command of Vice Admiral D. D. Porter he was transferred to U. S. receiving ship Clara Delson, and on *March* 11, 1863, he was discharged from the naval service by order of Vice Admiral Porter, on the report of the Fleet-Surgeon that his sickness was *febris remittens*, originating in the line of duty from exposure to climatic influences, after which H. H. Buck, examining surgeon, on *April* 1st, 1863, certified that the *disability* originated in the line of duty and that it would probably be of long duration. He further reported that he found hemiplegia of left side and its extremities; that according to statements Edgar was sick with intermittent *fever* at the action near Vicksburg, and hemiplegia was intercurrent to the fever and that he was eleven years old at the time of the sickness. After which William A. Knox, examining surgeon, on full and close examination, as he certified on *July* 26th, 1863, reported "that the disability of Edgar was paralysis, hemiplegia of left side, together with epilepsy, the convulsions being very violent and occurring sometimes two to ten times a day; that his mental faculties were greatly impaired; that it was an aggravated case,

with no prospect of improvement." "*Disability total, first grade, and permanent in its present degree.*"

And again, afterwards on application for an increase of pension the examining Board of Surgeons, viz.: W. C. Lyman, G. O. Roker, J. A. Emmons, on *August 25th, 1874*, the board reported "that William E. Van Keuren, formerly a first class boy of the U. S. navy; *disability* originated entirely from the injury or disease on account of which he was originally pensioned. That he has complete paralysis of left arm and partial paralysis of whole left side, walks with halting step, dragging his foot. He is completely imbecile, so as to require the constant care of an attendant. The symptoms are the sequence of paralysis and frequent attacks of epilepsy, the paroxysms of which often occur every day.

CERTIFICATE OF VICE ADMIRAL PORTER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, *October 22, 1869.*

I certify that William Edgar Van Keuren contracted his disease while under my command on board the flag ship *Blaekhawk* in the Mississippi squadron.

(Signed,)

DAVID D. PORTER,
Vice Admiral.

Recommended favorably to the honorable Secretary of the Navy for permission to be placed at the Naval Asylum.

"October 28, 1869.—*If to the Insane Asylum no charge or claim on his pension.*

(Signed,)

GEO. M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

We submit that the foregoing evidences fully show that my son was a first-class boy in the service of his country, under the immediate eye of the Vice Admiral, doing no doubt his every duty, until the *malaria fever* prostrated him, resulting in hemiplegia and epilepsy, worse, far worse, for my son than death.

THE LAW OF THE ASYLUM.

[Revised Statutes of the United States, p. 945.]

"SEC. 4338. There shall be in the District of Columbia a Government hospital for the insane, and its object shall be the *most*

humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the insane of the army and navy of the United States and of the District of Columbia.

"SEC. 4839. The chief executive officer of the hospital for the insane shall be a superintendent, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, * * * who shall be a well-educated physician, *possessing competent experience in the care and treatment of the insane*; he shall reside on the premises and *devote his whole time* to the welfare of the institution.

"SEC. 4840. Nine citizens of the District of Columbia, to be appointed by the President, shall constitute a board of visitors of the hospital for the insane. * * * The board of office of visitor shall be honorary and without compensation."

* * * * *

"SEC. 4843. The superintendent, upon the order of the Secretary of War, of the Secretary of the Navy, and of the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively, shall receive and keep in custody until they are cured, or removed by the same authority which ordered their reception, insane persons of the following description:

"*First.* Insane persons belonging to the army, navy, marine corps, and revenue-cutter service.

"*Second.* Civilians employed in the quartermaster's and subsistence departments of the army who may be, or may hereafter become, insane while in such employment."

* * * * *

"*Fifth.* *Indigent* insane persons who have become insane within three years after their discharge from service, from causes which arose during and were produced by said service."

* * * * *

"SEC. 4853. Whenever there are *vacancies* private patients from the District may be received at the rate of board to be determined by the *visitors*, to be in no case less than the actual cost of their support.

SEC. 4854. The independent or pay patients may be received into the hospital for the insane on the certificate of two respectable physicians of the District," &c.

INSANE PERSONS.

Having quoted the law creating the hospital for the insane we will refer to the statute defining the term:

[Volume 16, p. 431, act of February 25, 1871.]

The words "insane person" shall include every "idiot," "non-compos," "lunatics," and "insane persons." It seems that under the statute the word "insane" includes every person who has any derangement of mind, no matter from *what cause* or whether called mania, mono-mania, melancholia, or dementia. So that it is obvious that at this point, the great political center, a very large increase of capacity will soon be demanded at the asylum, or the soldier will be entirely excluded—the civil-life patients will require all the room and attention.

THE INDICTMENT.

The facts *proved* present unmistakably an *indictment* against the Superintendent of the Government Asylum, near Washington, D. C., in several counts, as follows:

First Count. That the Superintendent knowingly and wickedly neglected his sworn duty in this, to wit:

That he did not employ competent assisting physicians in the asylum, and did not prevent brutish and inhuman men being in charge as ward attendants.

That he did not daily and hourly make personal *visits* of inspection of wards in the asylum, or cause it to be done by humane and competent physicians.

That he did not give his attention to the "*most humane care and enlightened curative treatment of the patients* in the asylum," as the law provides that he should do, which his *official oath* required of him.

That he did not "devote his whole time to the welfare of the institution," as section 4839 provides.

Second Count. That the Superintendent did not give, nor did he cause to be given, to my son Edgar that care and enlightened curative treatment, as the law provides.

That he did permit quacks, incompetent and inhuman physicians, to ill treat and neglect my son Edgar while in the Asylum, to such an extent that *compelled* me to take him from the Asylum to save his life, and care for him when we, from illness and losses, were not able to do so.

Third Count. That the Superintendent *knowingly* suffered incompetent and cruel men to abuse, ill treat, bruise, beat, and neglect

Army and Navy patients in the Asylum to such an extent and for so many years that such neglect became a high misdemeanor.

Fourth Count. That the Superintendent, by his cruel neglect of duty, *knowingly* allowed the wards and rooms of Government patients to become filled with vermin, and also the clothes, bodies, and beds of the patients to become covered with vermin, parasites of men, to such an extent, as shown by the proofs, in some cases, that the humane mind revolts at a repetition.

Fifth Count. That the Superintendent *designedly* put some of the *Army and Navy* patients into the worst wards, back wards, killing wards, and gave *pay* patients, *independent patients*, so called, the best wards, and did give to them exclusive privileges of the grounds, to the exclusion, to some extent, of Government patients, thereby cruelly treating the soldier and sailor patients, disgracing the Government, and bringing the Administration into contempt of the people, especially the soldiers and sailors who helped to save the country and yet live, although many of them, from disease and injury, are classed at the "*Charity*" under the awful heading of "*mania*," melancholia, dementia, imbecility, &c.

And now by the testimony, and by these presents, we do, in the name of every surviving officer, soldier, and sailor of the *Union army* who helped to save the country and still lives, and in the name of humanity, of justice, of honor, protest *against* the incompetent, imbecile, cruel, inhuman, and brutish management of the patients in the Government Asylum near Washington.

And in the name of humanity and in God's name we ask the authorities *not* to be deceived by glossary, coming from mere *half-surface* inspection, into shutting the *eye* of justice, and thereby let the inmates of the Asylum suffer longer.

PLEAS BY THE DEFENSE.

The Superintendent, by himself, his assistants, and by his able counsel, interposed pleas in substance as follows:

The first plea interposed by the defense seems to be a general denial of the charge, and claiming the *benefit of clergy*.

The second plea interposed seems to be an attack upon all the witnesses against the accused upon general principles, that no one will be permitted to call the accused to judgment for what he *has* done or *not* done.

The third plea interposed is *reputation*, so forcibly presented by

Miss Dix, claiming that it should *overrule* more than twoscore of creditable witnesses testifying to facts overwhelmingly showing all the acts charged in the indictment to be true.

CONTROLLING CONSIDERATIONS.

The law of the institution, as enacted by Congress, should be the first principle of guidance; no understandings or changes should be permitted for a moment to be adopted by the Superintendent to change the first law of the Asylum.

It certainly would show symptoms of insanity to *argue* the proposition that the patients of the Asylum, under the law, were entitled to humane and kind treatment on the part of those who have the custody and care of them, or that it would be a violation of one of the highest and holiest public obligations knowingly to retain a man in charge of them who is so forgetful of his solemn duties, imposed by law, to look after and care for the unfortunate inmates, as not to visit them but once in seven days, and then in a passing review, under "double quick."

Knowing the promptings of a true heart, we say that the *voice* of humanity speaks for the pitiable condition of the dependent and defenseless patients in the Asylum, and will defend them against neglect and abuse, even to the last.

However difficult it may be for man to believe such charges as made and proved, except upon the most convincing proofs, yet the mind cannot refuse in these days to criticise the acts and conduct of those brought before the public to answer indictments found upon strong and truthful testimony.

RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED.

We recognize that the accused has the right in this case, resting under the charges, to be heard by himself and by counsel in his defense, and that the fullest consideration should be given. While this is true, yet it is also true that the charges made and the indictment sustained by so many volumes of testimony should *not* be passed by as you would pass an immaterial thing, with a simple glance, taking it for granted that such years, long in office, and once so humane, caring for such unfortunates, from principle as well as choice, as it has been said, that he could not become so *deadened*, so lost to his duty, to his oath of office, as to suffer such

eruel treatment to the patients in the Asylum as testified to by so many witnesses. The charges against the Superintendent of the Asylum are the most wicked on earth; the most revolting to humanity; the most difficult to believe; the most eruel upon the unfortunates who have by their serviees to their country lost their *reason*, more or less, who stand waiting for the angel of death to eall them henee to their God. Therefore, it is hard to believe, yet the mind on reading but a *tithe* of the proofs *stands affirmed*, fixed and unchangeable—a plea of guilty would not add one penny-weight in the balancee.

In presenting the defense of the party charged his eounsel took broad grounds, and for the want of a better defense, he struek unwarranted *blows* upon the witnesses for the people—more eruel than than blows proved to have been struek by the attendants upon the poor *insane patients*. Counsel has attempted to justify many *great wrongs* by the perpetration of *other wrongs* far more eruel in some respects. Such has been his aets and speech when *sane* and *insane*, perhaps, measurably to *divert* from the *real issue*, not to *convince of innocence*, not to show *error* in the charges.

“For all his tedious talks is but vain boasts,
Or subtle shifts conviction to evade.”

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, OCTOBER 3, 1871.

In looking over the report to the Seeretary of the Interior, dated October 3, 1871, signed by W. Gunton, president, and C. H. Nichols, superintendent and secretary of the board, &c., for the purpose of finding the number of army and uavy patients in the Asylum, we noticed the following in the report:

“The resident officers of the hospital who have from *hour to hour* and *day to day* through another year performed the unremitting mental labor and felt the uneeasing responsibility of the eare and treatment of *six hundred and forty-eight insane persons*, embracing a very wide range of intellectual and moral culture, of social position and of offieial rank, and exhibiting every form of morbid mental manifestations, every troublesome and dangerous propensity, and every physieal complication, feel profoundly grateful for the general prosperity which has attended the operations of the institution.”

The report, although dated in Oetober, was for the year ending June 30, 1871. The number of army patients treated for the year

as reported was 136; of the navy, 21; civil life, 198; making 357. The number of patients remaining at the end of the year, as reported, army, 279; navy, 30—309; civil life, 173; pay patients, 26—199; making 508. We do not elaim to understand the report, for the reason we cannot make the number of *insane* as stated. But it is of but little consequence here, for the reason the question is as to the treatment.

The report, in stating specially as to numbers of troublesome and dangerous propensities, gives a table as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Acute—Homicidal, - - - | 17 |
| Suicidal, - - - | 19 |
| Homicidal and suicidal, - - - | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 37 |
| Chronic—Homicidal, - - - | 5 |
| Suicidal, - - - | 4 |
| Homicidal and Epileptic, - - - | 1 |
| Homicidal and Hysterical, - - - | 1 |
| Homicidal and Suicidal, - - - | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 12 |
| Acute Hysterical, - - - | 8 |
| Chronic Hysterical, - - - | 2 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 10 |

It seems from the report that there were in the Asylum at the end of the year 1871, and perhaps through the year, dangerous patients, 49; and hysterical, (dangerous, according to Dr. Walker, because they might *strike* themselves and *scream*,) 10.

Of the number 49, it seems that 23 of them were simply suicidal; so that they were not dangerous to the resident officers.

We have referred to this report for the reason that it is a record so far of the Asylum, and proper to examine. The 648 insane persons in one year, if all of the dangerous kind, would truly be a very great care. The statement of *hour to hour*, from *day to day*, if such attention was given, would be a compliance of law as to that duty. But how does the statement agree with the testimony? No such attention has been proved. On the contrary,

the Superintendent takes a walk through the wards generally once in a week—some say not as often.

The defense has not shown that the Superintendent gives any personal attention to the patients from day to day, much less *hour to hour*.

According to the proofs there could not have been but a very little *mental labor* performed in the Asylum in the year 1871. It does not appear from the testimony that any one felt unceasing responsibility of the care and treatment of the patients. Physical labor, perhaps extended; at any rate, we find striking evidences in the testimony sufficient to satisfy.

The attention given to official rank, which the report speaks of, doubtless has reference to the case of *General Loomis*. The proofs show the care and treatment in his case to have been cruel, and had he friends at Washington at the time there might have been more said. One of the intellectual patients cared for and treated at the Asylum, of later date, was Dr. Dexter, and the proofs show it to have been cruel in the extreme, so that his friends were obliged to take him out of the Asylum without any benefits.

It is unmistakably true from the testimony that the report for that year was an *error*, a great error, so far as unremitting mental labor formed an item. The plain sections of the law as to the care and treatment of the patients and the duties of the Superintendent were not regarded.

COST OF THE INSTITUTION.

We have carefully taken the amounts of the several appropriations, commencing with Vol. 10 and ending with Vol. 18 of Statutes at Large, and find the total to

AMOUNT TO \$3,083,976, ALL TOLD,

of which sum \$1,695,756 was designated as for support, clothing, and medical treatment of the Government patients, and the sum of \$1,388,220 for the grounds, from first to last, and the buildings erected thereon. In the early appropriations there were items for a carriage and harness for use of patients to drive out for an airing, but the proofs do not show use for that purpose.

Notwithstanding the great cost of the buildings and grounds, and the splendor and comfort to the parties in charge, it seems

that the Superintendent devoted some of his time, not to the patients' care and comfort, *but* to defeat those who might have a pension of eight, twenty-five, or thirty-one dollars per month for their families or for their mother, so that not one farthing could be obtained by them for an item extra, so that the pension should be turned over to the Superintendent for the use of the Government, as suggested, but now in fact doubtful. These acts to which we refer will appear in the record as part of the argument or suggestions of defendant's counsel. It will be important to remember that the law authorized admission to the Asylum upon the order of the Secretary of War, of the Navy, and the Treasury, without any authority in *an under officer* of any department to interfere in the least.

Counsel says that Dr. Nichols himself *had* inserted three additional words in the appropriation act in 1869, viz: "*and who are indigent.*"

The object of these words evidently was to give to the Superintendent the power to say to those receiving, by themselves or by their family or by a mother, a small pension, that they were *not indigent*, notwithstanding the Secretary of War had given the patient an order to be cared for and treated at the expense of the Government; therefore your pension must be turned over to him, so that he could draw the money. We do not believe that the law authorizing the Secretary of War to send to the Asylum a soldier for care and the most enlightened curative treatment until he should be fully restored to health could be defeated in that way. The refusal by the Government to appropriate money to keep a patient after he had been put in the Asylum would be equal to the act of starving by the Superintendent. When the patient is put in the Asylum by the order of the Secretary of War, to be kept until cured, the patient then becomes the ward of the Government, and to *starve him* for want of an appropriation, to refuse to feed him unless he turns over the small sum of money, his pension, would be a cruel act, quite equal to many proved against the management. Such attempt to insert the words was clearly illegal, and besides, it was interfering; it was meddling with other persons' duties and neglecting his own.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

Counsel, further to illustrate the cruelties of the Superintendent, gave in evidence an opinion of the Attorney General upon the statutes as to the right to place insane persons, soldiers and sailors, in the Asylum at the expense of the Government, which bears date April 23, 1873, and directed to the Hon. George M. Robeson, Acting Secretary of War. The history of this opinion seems to be that at the request of the Superintendent of the Asylum the Commissioner of Pensions caused a request to be made upon the Attorney General for an opinion upon the law. The fact is, the Secretary of War did not himself desire any opinion upon the law, for the reason that it was very plain and easy to be understood.

The Attorney General in effect rebukes the Superintendent for his inserted words, for he says that "I cannot discover what the object of Congress could have been in the above cited clause from the appropriation bills."

The fact, we say, is, that Congress did not have any object. The words were inserted at Dr. Nichols' request, as counsel says, and Congress no doubt supposed that the wording was properly within the law. Congress had no intention to *starve* the soldiers and sailors in the Asylum, who were there upon proper orders, by any such action.

It seems that the Superintendent, for some cause, still harps upon his *three words*, and has some improper purpose, for we see in the bill now pending the following:

"GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.—For the support, clothing, and medical and moral treatment of the insane of the army, navy and marine corps, and revenue-cutter service, and of all persons who may have become insane since their entry into the military or naval service of the United States *and who are indigent*, and of the indigent insane of the District of Columbia, in the Government Hospital for the Insane, \$150,000; and hereafter one-half of the expense of the indigent persons who may be admitted from the District of Columbia shall be paid from the treasury of said District.

"For general repairs absolutely necessary for the building of the institution, \$5,000."

The words "*and who are indigent*" are in conflict with the law,

and, as the Attorney General said, did not show any object in the law of 1869.

The fact is, the words have been put into the clause by the procurement of the Superintendent, without the committee being advised of the purpose. It can only raise a conflict between the law and the Superintendent's "*three words*," as counsel calls them. It seems that the head of the hospital is determined to be a law unto himself, and desires a few words stolen into the act without any knowledge of the purpose on the part of Congress.

HOW WILL IT WORK ?

Suppose such a clause goes through and becomes a part of the law, and the Secretary of War shall issue an order under the law of 1866, by which a soldier may enter the asylum and there be kept until cured, and then the Superintendent refuses to feed and care for the patient unless he turns over a pension of a few dollars, and cites the above clause, saying that it means that if the patient has a pension, no matter whether eight or thirty-one dollars, he is *not indigent*. Therefore, unless he pays his bills—board, washing, medicine, and moral treatment—he must starve. Upon such an issue the patient cannot go to the courts, he must comply with the unjust demand and fraud upon him and upon the people in the *three words*. The law means full and adequate means for support, and if the patient has half or even two thirds enough income for his support still he is indigent and entitled to the order of admission and support. Is it the policy of the Government to starve an invalid after destroying his health and hopes in this world? Such claim and pretense, as shown by counsel in his effort on Dr. Nichols' three words, is a disgrace to the Government and to the liberal-minded men who administer the law.

C. H. CRANE, SURGEON U. S. ARMY.

It seems to be quite in keeping with some other matters of defense that a letter from the above named, of date July 14, 1866, should have been put in evidence on this investigation. It will be remembered that about that time there was an investigation proposed or going on upon charges against the management of the asylum, and that letter was got up on consultation, and no

doubt upon *fixing up*. At any rate the law does not require such reports upon inspection or information, and can have no weight as testimony. And further, the letter of Mr. Crane cannot have any influence upon the facts proved, for the reason that it does not show anything but *surface*, and that upon information in part. It is proper to allow a party accused of wrong to grasp at straws, if he has nothing else to hold to; therefore, we do not object to such efforts; but we suggest that it shows clearly that the testimony against the management is true and convincing.

WHAT OF THE PROMISE.

Viewing the testimony as to the condition of the *inmates* and treatment for several years past these questions are asked. What of the future? What are the promises and prospects for the better? and the questions are answered by the party in power, by the party responsible for all the inhuman treatment the *insane* soldiers and sailors have received for the last eleven years in the asylum, and are so answered by simply again repeating the promise more eloquently pronounced in *new terms*, with exclamations of visions:

"New glory seen in the Flag."

"The pledges which the Nation has given to our soldiers and sailors must be fulfilled."

"The grateful people will always hold those who *perilled* their lives for the country's preservation in the kindest remembrance."

The answers thus given, in the words used, can only be said to be seductive, simply to give flattering attentions in words which lasted only as long as the eloquent sounds rested upon the ear.

He whose firm faith in his countrymen,
No reason or doubt could remove,
Until the pledges had only sounds
And the promises not found.

The army inmates of the asylum ask the grateful people to *act*, to do something besides bearing in "kind remembrance" their pitiable condition without action. The eloquence which *dies* upon the lip will not secure for the *insane* that "humane care and enlightened curative treatment," for the few days they may remain on this earth, unless the pledge is carried out in acts in a prompt action, which will produce *instant reform*. It is easy to talk. It is easier for many to neglect and lose all interest in the suffering soldier, who has lost his reason by disease contracted in line

of duty. The officials who pass in review or inspection at such a distance as not to be in danger of the *vermin* can have no such interest in the patients necessary to carry out the *pledge*. Such a party can only have a kind remembrance whenever it is for political purposes. There is not in action any practical carrying out of the pledges to give the soldier humane care and enlightened treatment as provided by law.

The law cannot execute itself, the authorities must see that the law is obeyed and the duties performed to the letter.

The time has come when such a plank in the platform of the party in power will not *lull* the thousands upon thousands of officers and soldiers in the country to sleep; the opiate has lost its effect. "Every guilty man must be put out;" no plea of former good action will be taken for the present to set aside strong and positive evidence. Humanity, right, and justice must rule in the asylum.

RECENT ELOQUENCE.

In pointing to a conclusion of our appeals, that justice be done to the unfortunate army and navy patients in the asylum, and to those who have a right to a home therein for such care and treatment as the law guarantees, our thoughts went out for a hope to rest upon that the asylum should be cleaned out; that the management be changed, so that the friends of the disabled army and navy patients now in the asylum, and others who come after, may feel satisfied that proper care and treatment will be given to them during the few days they may remain.

In glancing at the prospects and probabilities of the future our eyes met flowing eloquence transmitted upon electrical wings in large measure, which filled the soul with hope, so that many saw

"Victory in the air,"
For suffering inmates over there.

The eloquence presented the fact that there had been for some time growing up in the country a wide-spread and serious dissatisfaction, and that it was simply common sense to recognize it. No specification was made as to what caused the dissatisfaction or in what it consisted, leaving the reading and thinking mind to determine the reason, which no doubt was because there were so many causes existing, *one* of which points directly to the Government asylum.

The declaration went forth with eloquence that the Republican

party demands to-day that "*no guilty man shall escape*," that the party must purify itself; that there were men enough with strength enough left in the party, having principles, to clean out the "*Augean stable*" in one day, if need be, and purify it with *carbolic acid*. If such are the intentions then let the proper officials clean out the asylum and appoint a new management the first thing, and put the suffering soldier right.

It is evident that this eloquence pointed direct, like a *finger board*, to the asylum, which gave hopes and promise to the inmates that "*new glory*" would soon be seen in the institution.

One burst of eloquence, flowing full and long, gave promise that they would fight to the death "*pirates on land as well as on the seas*;" and we, on reading, thought that the orator ought to have added, *with thrilling bursts*, these words: *And we will also fight the parasites on the heads and bodies* of some of the disabled soldiers and sailors in the asylum.

The new era heralded forth was to contain no uncertain *sounds*; promises were to be performed; pledges were to be carried out. It was admitted that reform was demanded everywhere and in every place and in everything, in the asylum in particular. In this, let there be no unmeaning sound; the demand is just; it is universal, and no compromise.

It is important to remember that the patients have no benefit of the Superintendent's skill any more than had he none. The proofs cannot be overlooked. They show no attention to the patients by the officer in chief, no skill; but the incompetency of the attendants for years seems to have been given to the patients.

It is now more important than ever that a competent man be now at head of the asylum, who should be required to give his whole care and attention to the patients, for the reason there has been and is so much running crooked, such frauds, crimes, and overt acts more or less a direct result of an over-excited brain, producing partial loss of reason, clearly coming within the law of insanity which may fill the asylum with patients from civil life.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. MARY J. VAN KEUREN,
508 Wabash avenue, Chicago, Ill.

JULY, 1876.

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